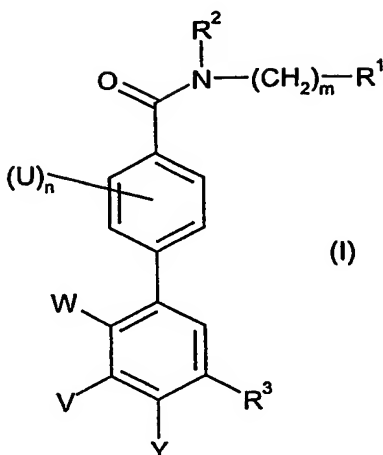


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



5

wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl substituted by one to three groups independently selected from oxo, cyano and $-S(O)_pR^4$, and C_{3-7} cycloalkyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from oxo, cyano, $-S(O)_pR^4$, OH, halogen, C_{1-6} alkoxy, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NCOR^5$, $-COOR^5$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NHSO_2R^5$ and $-NHCONHR^5$,

R^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl and $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, or $(CH_2)_mR^1$ and R^2 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a four- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or two additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulphur and $N-R^7$, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

R^3 is the group $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_rR^8$ or $-NH-CO-R^9$;

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, heterocyclyl optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl, and phenyl wherein the phenyl is optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkyl and halogen;

R^5 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl and phenyl wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by up to two substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl and halogen,

R^6 is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6} alkyl, or

R^5 and R^6 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring optionally containing up to one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C_{1-6} alkyl groups;

R^7 is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

when r is 0 to 2, R^8 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $CONHR^5$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11} , heteroaryl optionally

substituted by R¹⁰ and/or R¹¹ and heterocyclyl optionally substituted by R¹⁰ and/or R¹¹, and

when r is 2, R⁸ is additionally selected from C₁₋₆alkoxy, NHCOR⁵, NHCONHR⁵, NR⁵R⁶ and OH;

R⁹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, -(CH₂)₅-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, -(CH₂)_tphenyl optionally substituted by R¹² and/or R¹³, -(CH₂)_theteroaryl optionally substituted by R¹² and/or R¹³, -(CH₂)_theterocyclyl optionally substituted by R¹² and/or R¹³ and -(CH₂)_tfused bicyclyl optionally substituted by R¹² and/or R¹³;

R¹⁰ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, -CONR⁶R¹⁴, -NHCOR¹⁴, -SO₂NHR¹⁴, -NHCO₂R¹⁴, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -X-(CH₂)_j-phenyl optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or C₁₋₆alkyl groups, -X-(CH₂)_j-heterocyclyl or -X-(CH₂)_j-heteroaryl wherein the heterocyclyl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C₁₋₆alkyl,

R¹¹ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl and halogen, or

when R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are ortho substituents, then together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ may form a five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated ring to give a fused bicyclic ring system, wherein the ring that is formed by R¹⁰ and R¹¹ optionally contains one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R¹² is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, -(CH₂)₅-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, -CONR¹⁵R¹⁶, -NHCOR¹⁶, -SO₂NHR¹⁵, -NHCO₂R¹⁶, halogen, -(CH₂)_kNR¹⁷R¹⁸, oxy, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R¹³ groups and heteroaryl wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more R¹³ groups,

R¹³ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl and -NR¹⁷R¹⁸, or

R¹² and R¹³, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated ring to give a fused bicyclic ring system, wherein the ring that is formed by R¹² and R¹³ optionally contains one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R¹⁴ is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl;

R¹⁵ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl and phenyl wherein the phenyl group may be optionally substituted by one or more R¹³ groups,

R¹⁶ is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R¹⁵ and R¹⁶, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R⁷, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C₁₋₆alkyl groups;

R¹⁷ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl and -(CH₂)₅-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₆alkyl,

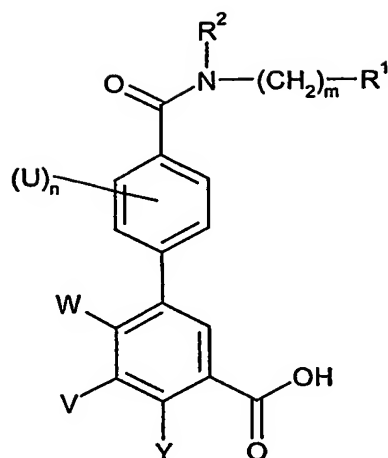
R¹⁸ is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R¹⁷ and R¹⁸, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a three- to seven-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional

heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R⁷, wherein the ring may contain up to one double bond and the ring is optionally substituted by one or more R¹⁹ groups;

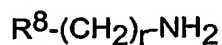
R¹⁹ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, oxy, -CH₂OC₁₋₆alkyl, trichloromethyl and -N(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂;

- 5 X is selected from -O- and a bond;
U is selected from methyl and halogen;
W is selected from methyl and chlorine;
V and Y are each selected independently from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;
m is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 wherein each carbon atom of the resulting
10 carbon chain is optionally substituted with one or two groups selected independently from C₁₋₆alkyl, wherein the C₁₋₆alkyl group is optionally substituted by up to three OH groups;
n, p, r and j are independently selected from 0, 1 and 2;
q and k are independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3; and
s and t are independently selected from 0 and 1;
15 with the proviso that when R¹ is unsubstituted C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, m is not selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 wherein each carbon atom of the resulting carbon chain may be optionally substituted with one or two groups selected independently from C₁₋₆alkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.
- 20 2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is selected from C₂₋₆alkyl substituted by one or two groups independently selected from oxo, cyano and -S(O)_tR⁴, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from OH and cyano.
- 25 3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R² is hydrogen.
4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R⁸ is C₃₋₆cycloalkyl.
- 30 5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein m is selected from 0 and 1 and wherein the carbon chain is optionally substituted by one or two methyl groups which are optionally substituted by OH.
6. A compound according to claim 1 as defined in any one of Examples 1 to 11,
35 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.
7. A process for preparing a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 which comprises:
- 40 (a) reacting a compound of formula (XXII)



(XXII)

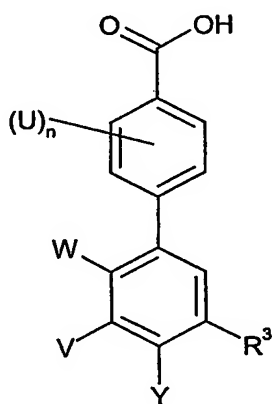
- 5 wherein R^1 , R^2 , U, W, V, Y, m and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXIII)



(XXIII)

- 10 wherein R^8 and r are as defined in claim 1,
under amide forming conditions optionally converting the acid compound (XXII) to an
activated form of the acid before reaction with the amine compound (XXIII);

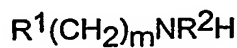
- (b) reacting a compound of formula (XXIV)



(XXIV)

- 15 wherein R^3 , U, W, V, Y and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXV)

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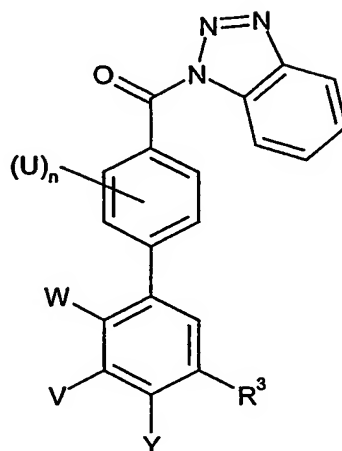


(XXV)

- wherein R^1 , R^2 , m and n are as defined in claim 1,

under amide forming conditions;

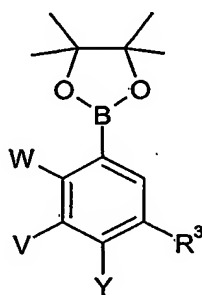
(c) reacting a compound of formula (XXVI)



(XXVI)

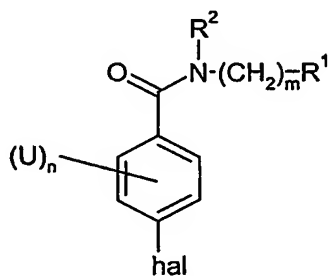
wherein R³, U, W, V, Y and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXV) as defined above;

(d) reacting a compound of formula (XXVII)



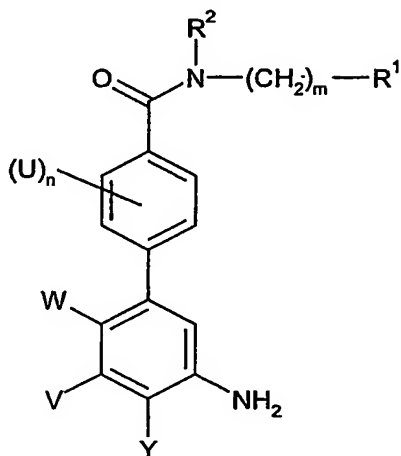
(XXVII)

wherein W, V, Y and R³ are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXVIII)



wherein R^1 , R^2 , U, m and n are as defined above and hal is halogen, in the presence of a catalyst; or

(e) reacting a compound of formula (XXIX)



(XXIX)

wherein R^1 , R^2 , U, W, V, Y, m and n are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula (XXX)



(XXX)

wherein R^9 is as defined in claim 1, under amide forming conditions optionally converting the acid compound (XXX) to an activated form of the acid before reaction with the amine compound (XXIX).

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

9. A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for use in therapy.

- 5 11. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.